

# The Revived St. John's Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of New York, 1853 to 1859

Bradley Corsello on the complex jurisdictional history of the Craft in New York

**T**HE REVIVED, or Second, St. John's Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York ("RSJGL") was a schismatic grand body based in the City of New York, established in June 1853 and dissolved in June 1859. It was the last major schismatic movement in a period of about forty years during which various rival groups claimed to have jurisdiction over symbolic Freemasonry in New York. It was an attempt to revive the original St. John's Grand Lodge ("SJGL"), itself a schismatic body founded by certain expelled City Masons in 1837, which, after some success, reunited with the regular Grand Lodge on December 27, 1850.<sup>1</sup> The SJGL lodges received new numbers and charters, including the charter in the author's lodge, granted to Solomon's N° 196 (formerly N° 18 under the SJGL). The RSJGL should not be confused with the Phillips Grand Lodge or the Atwood Scottish Rite, which were separate schismatic bodies of this period.<sup>2</sup>

## Establishment

The attempt to revive the old SJGL was triggered by the election and installation of Chancellor Reuben

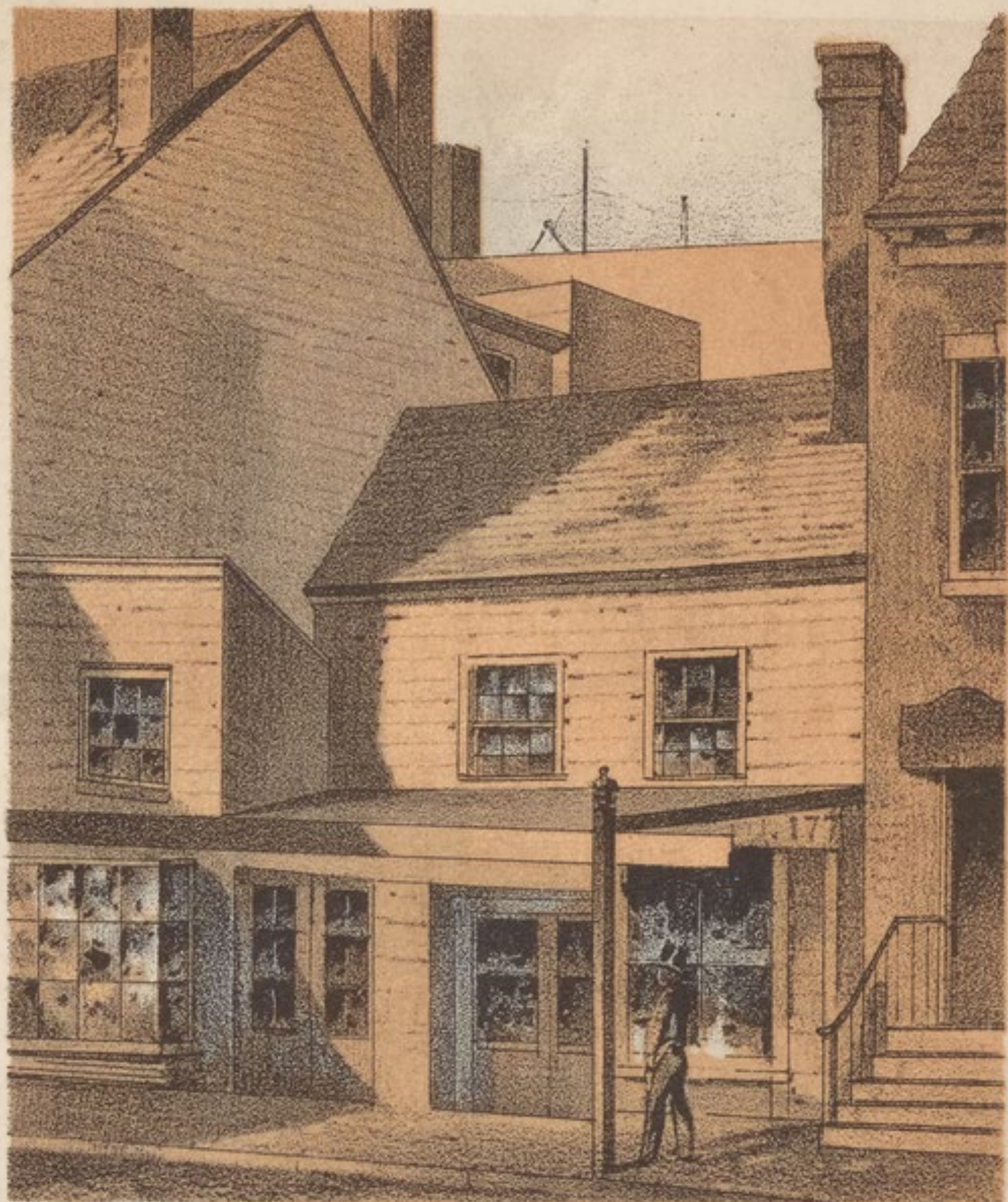
H. Walworth as Grand Master of the regular Grand Lodge, in June 1853.<sup>3</sup> Walworth's opponents accused him of renouncing Freemasonry and writing letters in support of the Anti-Masonic position during the Morgan disturbance—this was denied by Walworth and his supporters.<sup>4</sup> Previously, in 1849, Walworth authored a legal opinion on behalf of the regular Grand Lodge supporting its position against the Phillips Grand Lodge,<sup>5</sup> which aroused opposition against him among certain City Masons.<sup>6</sup>

Although Walworth was the principal stated reason for the new schism, "During the years immediately succeeding the union in 1850 there continued a spirit of unrest, especially among the leaders of the St. John's Grand Lodge, and they seemed to chafe under the new relationship, perhaps because they did not, although recognized as equals officially, occupy the same positions in the direction of affairs in the united body. This spirit of belligerency rankled in the breasts of some members until it broke out in 1853, in an attempt to revive the St. John's Grand Lodge."<sup>7</sup>

Immediately after the installation of Walworth, two lodges having ties to the SJGL—Benevolent N° 192 and Keystone N° 235—issued a call to arms:

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St. John's Hall was located at 181 Bowery, which is the large building visible on left of this image, which is courtesy of the New York Public Library.



for D.T. Valentine's Manual 1862

OLD SHANTY, (NEWS DEPOT) 177 BOWERY,  
NEAR DELANCY ST, 1861.



Masonic Notice.—Benevolent Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 192. To the rescue! The Grand Master's chair is graced by an anti mason! . . . The members of this lodge are hereby notified to be present at a special communication of the same to be held at their rooms, in Pythagoras Hall, N<sup>o</sup> 263 Walker street, on Sunday, 12 inst., at 2½ o'clock, P.M. (no Sundays in revolutionary times), to unite with other masons in washing their hands clean of any participation in the action that has placed this foul stain upon our banner, and to take such action as regards the future welfare of this lodge as may be deemed necessary. By order, Chas. W. Willets, W.M., Geo. H. Malcom, Secretary<sup>8</sup>

Masonic Notice—The members of Keystone Lodge, N<sup>o</sup> 235 are hereby summoned to attend a regular communication, of this lodge, at their rooms 197 and 199 Walker street, on Tuesday, June 13, at 8 o'clock, P.M., to take into consideration the action of the (so called) Grand Lodge, in selecting an anti-mason to the exalted station of Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York. By order, Andrew J. Fisher, W.M., Richard Latty, Secretary<sup>9</sup>

Keystone and Benevolent surrendered their warrants and withdrew from the regular Grand Lodge under implied censure.<sup>10</sup> Keystone published its resolution to that effect in the *New York Herald*:

Masonic.—At a regular meeting of Key Stone Lodge, N<sup>o</sup> 235 held at their hall, N<sup>o</sup> 197 and 199 Walker street, on Tuesday evening, June 13th, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The acts of the (so called) Grand Lodge of the State of New York . . . in the election of

Reuben H. Walworth (late Chancellor Walworth), as Grand Master; one who was an anti-mason in 1827, and from that time up to the period of 1848 . . . which facts were made known to the so called Grand Lodge, by a solemn protest previous to his installation, signed by a number of present and past grand officers—we view this act, and in fact most of their acts during the last two years . . . as not only unmasonic, but a desecration of the sacred altar of masonry, a violation of all masonic law, and an insult to the whole masonic fraternity.

Therefore, be it resolved, That we, the officers and members of Keystone Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 235, do hereby renounce all allegiance to this so-called Grand Lodge, and that our Worshipful Master be directed forthwith to return the warrant and a copy of these proceedings to the Grand Secretary of that body; and that Keystone Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 235 fall back upon the ancient constitutions that remained in force until 1717, and which many lodges in Europe still claim to be legal, and adhere thereto.

Resolved, That our meetings will be held until such times as an assembly or council of Masons can be formed on true Masonic principles.

Resolved, That we most cordially extend the hand of Masonic friendship to all Masons, hailing from what country they may, and under whatever rite they please; the certificate we require them to present is, to prove themselves as Masons. We want their certificates in their heads, and not in their pockets, and a heart devoted to the principles of friendship, charity, and brotherly love.

Resolved, That this keystone never was intended for an anti-Masonic arch, it not bearing any such mark upon it.

Andrew J. Fisher, W.M.<sup>11</sup>

The rebels held an organizational meeting at

Tollerton Hall, 63 Chrystie Street, City of New York, on June 13, 1853, the Monday following the close of the Annual Communication at which Walworth was installed as Grand Master.<sup>12</sup> Edmund B. Hays of Keystone presided, James B. Carey of Delta Lodge N° 242 served as Secretary. The meeting was addressed by Robert B. Folger of Independent Royal Arch N° 2, John Ewing of Worth N° 210, Reuben S. Van Tassel of Hyatt N° 205, George Cross of Delta N° 242, a Bro. Redford of Benevolent, George Osborne of Keystone, and others. A committee consisting of Folger, Willets and Van Tassel was appointed to draw up a plan for the formation and organization of a new grand lodge.

On June 20, the rebels held a tiled meeting at Tollerton Hall as Benevolent Lodge N° 1. The presiding Master and Wardens were Willets, W.M., John Syms, S.W., and Van Tassel, J.W. Delegates and committees from Worth N° 210, Independent Royal Arch N° 2, Eastern Star N° 227, Lebanon N° 13, Keystone N° 235, Hyatt N° 205, Delta N° 242, York N° 197, Independent N° 185 and other lodges were present. Several of these were SJGL lodges made regular in the union of 1850—to give their SJGL numbers, Benevolent N° 1, York N° 3, Independent N° 7, Lebanon N° 13, Hyatt N° 24, and Worth (U.D.). Keystone was formed under the regular Grand Lodge in 1851 but many of its founding members hailed from SJGL lodges Silentia N° 2 and Darcy N° 9.<sup>13</sup>

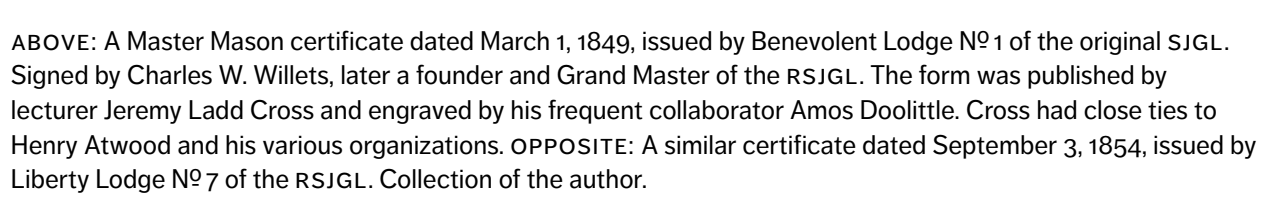
The committee appointed on June 13 presented a series of grievances against the regular Grand Lodge, including the election and installation of Walworth, alleging that his supporters intended to make him “Grand Master for Life”; the expenses of the Grand Lodge; its power over and “taxation” of subordinate lodges; and unfairness in the trial of Masonic offenses in the Grand Steward’s Lodge

(many of the SJGL leaders had been subjected to such discipline). The committee recommended withdrawal from the regular Grand Lodge and formation of a new grand lodge, which would have power limited to chartering new lodges, enforcing the Ancient Constitutions, the Landmarks and the Work—and all Master Masons would be empowered to attend and vote in its Communications.<sup>14</sup>

The report of the committee was adopted unanimously, and all present resolved to form and revive St. John’s Grand Lodge. The newly formed grand body proceeded to elect officers for the remainder of their Masonic year, which they took to begin on the second Tuesday of September (the usual anniversary of SJGL).<sup>15</sup>

The installation of grand officers was held on June 24, 1853 at the Keystone Hotel, owned and operated by Henry C. Atwood, the principal behind the original SJGL.<sup>16</sup> The organizers of the RSJGL claimed that Atwood had nothing to do with its revival and peremptorily refused to be involved.<sup>17</sup> Gould’s *History* states that Atwood “aided and abetted it, he was not prominent,” that “Robert B. Folger was the leading spirit” and actually wrote the circular letters and addresses attributed to Atwood.<sup>18</sup> However, Atwood presided over the first installation of grand officers,<sup>19</sup> and by at least as early as September 1853, ruled as the RSJGL’s Grand Master for a portion of its brief existence.<sup>20</sup>

Of the original SJGL lodges, only Benevolent joined this so-called revival as an entire lodge. In Worth N° 210, Ewing sought to have the lodge (of which he was W.M.) surrender its charter, presumably to join the RSJGL, but when put to a vote on June 21, only six of 55 members present voted in favor of this action. Ewing and the wardens of the lodge (Robert E. Roberts, S.W. and James Ellis, J.W.) immediately resigned their membership.<sup>21</sup>







In September 1853, the regular Grand Lodge preferred Masonic charges against certain of the RSJGL founders and grand officers, specifically Atwood, Folger, Willets, Van Tassel, Ewing, Fisher,

Roberts, Charles J. Waterbury, and Richard Thum, and summoned them to appear.<sup>22</sup> This prompted Grand Master Atwood to publish a notice requesting his officers and members “to retain a copy of

the charges and specifications preferred against them by the M.W. Grand Lodge 'so called,' over which Reuben H. Walworth presides as G.M., duly attested by two witnesses, and sworn before a commissioner or notary, expressly for the archives of St. John's Grand Lodge."<sup>23</sup> The summoned persons "refused to appear, in communications containing language offensive and contemptuous" and they were expelled "for contempt of the authority of the Grand Lodge."<sup>24</sup>

### Reputation in the Fraternity

The RSJGL had an abysmal reputation among the regular Craft. Grand Historian Peter Ross, in his *Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York*, uses some choice language to describe this schismatic body: "an ugly ulcer, too foul to be treated otherwise than by lopping off the entire part affected. There never was any Masonic schism more uncalled for in its inception, more degrading in its story than this"—"its aim was to form Lodges and manufacture Masons at the smallest cost—at any cost." "Foredoomed to failure from its inception," "cheap and nasty," "Masonic treason of the worst possible description."<sup>25</sup>

The RSJGL was branded "spurious," "irregular," and "clandestine," and was said to make Masons of anyone who would join the institution at any price they could get.<sup>26</sup> It allegedly acquired members by deception and by admitting unfit men into their ranks, "to keep up their organization so long as they can find dupes to act upon, or raise sufficient mental darkness to entrap the unwary," thereby "endangering of the stability of the institution itself."<sup>27</sup> The Masonic work of the RSJGL was said by its opponents to be highly informal—it was even alleged that Henry Atwood would confer the degrees of Masonry in his own hotel, for a bottle

of wine.<sup>28</sup>

It is not clear to what extent this reputation was based in fact rather than anti-schismatic feeling. As Grand Master, Atwood denied it all in a November 1854 circular letter to his members. Defending the legitimacy of the RSJGL as a Masonic body, he observed that historically, many grand bodies were self-organized and shared territory with other grand bodies. He insisted that their petitioners were carefully investigated and were truthfully informed of their position in the fraternity. With respect to their Masonic practices, he claimed that all of the RSJGL lodges practiced the "Ancient Work" he received from Jeremy L. Cross in 1823, while the regular Grand Lodge practiced a new system of work cobbled together from exposures.<sup>29</sup>

But Atwood is not necessarily a reliable narrator. His personality was incendiary, and by this point he had raged for decades against the regular Grand Lodge and its "wire-pullers." In his 1854 circular letter, he harshly derided his critics and the regular Grand Lodge, accusing that body of harboring "public swindlers," "seducers," "counterfeiters," and "'highwaymen' who have emerged from the prison-house with a ruined reputation, and make for the Order as a stepping-stone to lead them again into favour, and open the door to commit new depredations," its officers "waiting at the gallows-foot with a band of music and insignia of the Order, to convey the felon to his last resting place, when the executioner shall have finished his work upon the victim."<sup>30</sup>

### Lodges and Membership

It is difficult to ascertain the course of the RSJGL after its founding weeks. It apparently did not publish its proceedings as the regular and Phillips grand lodges did. According to Ross' *Standard*

History, "Practically it had no history, or, rather, its history was so ignoble even to its leaders that full minutes of its doings were not kept. It established Lodges of which no trace or record remains . . ."<sup>31</sup>

Prior to the work underlying this paper, there was no known list of RSJGL lodges. The list provided here<sup>32</sup> was compiled by laboriously backtracing from the regular lodges formed after the demise of the RSJGL, supplemented by searches of newspapers, journals and other public records. Lodge 10 is still unknown, and other lodges were created and erased without leaving track nor trace.

Between June 1856 and June 1857, three lodges withdrew from the RSJGL, and one was expelled.<sup>33</sup> Of these, it is known that Ionic N<sup>o</sup> 12 and Lebanon N<sup>o</sup> 13 withdrew in November 1856<sup>34</sup>—the other two former RSJGL lodges are still unidentified.

Despite being shunned and wholly unrecognized, the RSJGL enjoyed substantial growth over its six years of existence. In the 1854 circular letter, Atwood states that the RSJGL began in June 1853 with two lodges (Benevolent and Keystone) and a few members from other lodges,<sup>35</sup> totaling 65 members.<sup>36</sup> The letter states that by November 1854, the RSJGL had increased to 10 lodges with 50 to 75 members each. The RSJGL grew to 640 members in June 1856 and 927 members in June 1857, having gained 287 in the preceding year, "being a larger net increase than during any other year since its organization."<sup>37</sup> In a letter of September 14, 1858, Atwood claimed 14 lodges with about a hundred members each.<sup>38</sup> It is true that these lodges had about a hundred members, the RSJGL had about 1,400 members at that time, making it a sizable body.

When the RSJGL dissolved in June 1859, about 200 members were formed into regular lodges.<sup>39</sup> If Atwood's numbers are correct, the vast majority

of RSJGL members, over 85%, did not join the regular Craft in this way.

## Meeting Places

The RSJGL met at Tollerton Hall, 63 Chrystie Street, City of New York from its establishment<sup>40</sup> until completion of its purpose-built structure, St. John's Hall, 181 Bowery at Delancey Street, City of New York. The cornerstone of St. John's Hall was laid in June 1854, in ample form:

The interesting ceremonies peculiar to the masonic fraternity, viz:- The laying of the corner stones of the new St. John's Hall, which is to be located at the corner of Bowery and Delancey streets, was performed on Sunday afternoon [June 25] by Henry C. Atwood, Esq., M.W. Grand Master of the St. John's Grand Lodge of the most ancient and honorable fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York. . . . It is said that these are the same stones that were laid by Gen. Joseph Morton, M.W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York in the year 1802, under St. John's Hall, in Frankfort street, where now stands that noble edifice known as French's Hotel.<sup>41</sup>

The cornerstone laid that day by Atwood was indeed the cornerstone of the original St. John's Hall of 1802, the first building constructed for Masonic purposes in New York. Atwood came to possess the cornerstone in 1848, when the original St. John's Hall was demolished to make way for French's Hotel. The proprietors removed the cornerstone from its original foundation and presented it to Atwood, who was then the Grand Master of the original SJGL.<sup>42</sup>

The new St. John's Hall was ready for occupan-



cy by April, 1855,<sup>43</sup> and was the meeting place of the RSJGL and several of its subordinate lodges until its dissolution. It is remarkable that the RSJGL owned its own meeting place, an advantage over the regular Grand Lodge, which did not own a meeting place until 1873, with the completion of the first Masonic Hall on the corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.<sup>44</sup>

The St. John's Hall cornerstone was rediscovered in 1908, in Delancey Street about 100 feet east of the Bowery, during excavation for a subway loop. The stone had inscriptions from its first use in 1802, and a central hole containing a pile of coins, a newspaper from 1854, and a silver plate with the engraving, "This stone was presented by Henry C. Atwood, Esq. to St. John's Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York and by them relaid in ample form as the cornerstone of the new St. John's Hall on this 24<sup>th</sup> of June, A.D. 1854, A.L. 5854," with names of the grand officers.<sup>45</sup>

## Other Activities

In June 1857, *The New York Times* noticed RSJGL's celebration of St. John the Baptist's Day. This was said to be "the first festival held by St. John's Grand Lodge since its reorganization in 1852 [sic]." "There was a large attendance of delegates, and considerable enthusiasm was manifested. Arrangements were made for holding a festival at the Astor House on the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, putting the tickets at \$5 each. Hon. John Wheeler, of States Rights' Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 6, will be invited to preside." "More than three hundred tickets were disposed of upon the spot."<sup>46</sup>

In November 1857, the dedication of a monument near Madison Square to Maj. Gen. William J. Worth prompted the RSJGL to publish a remarkable

notice in the *New York Herald*. Worth was a hero of the Mexican-American War and a New York Freemason. His remains were initially entombed in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, in November 1849, with civil and Masonic ceremony. For reasons unknown, the civil authorities gave the original SJGL the central place in the reception of Worth's remains.<sup>47</sup> Eight years later, his monument complete, the city's Common Council organized another day of ceremonies and invited many civil and military organizations including the Freemasons. The regular lodges answered the call enthusiastically, but the RSJGL chose not to participate:

I have consulted with my associate officers of St. John's Grand Lodge, and we have come to the unanimous conclusion, that as the banner of St. John's Grand Lodge was unfurled in 1849, and the members of its jurisdiction rallied around it, with M.W. G. Master Henry C. Atwood at their head, and, by special invitation of the Common Council, paid the last tribute of respect and esteem, and the usual ceremonies were then performed in ample form, our duties to him as a masonic body were then ended. Our only remaining duties are to attend to the wants (if any) of his widow and orphans. . . . [I] would respectfully request all our members to join the procession as citizens, in honor of our lamented brother and noble chief. George Ely, Grand Master.<sup>48</sup>

## Decline and Fall

Unsurprisingly, the RSJGL suffered from instability. The first known defections occurred in November 1856, when the members of Ionic N<sup>o</sup> 12 and Lebanon N<sup>o</sup> 13 disclaimed and renounced all allegiance to that body and petitioned D.G.M. Robert Macoy for dispensation to organize and

establish a lodge under the regular Grand Lodge. These persons were "healed" and founded Mosaic 418.<sup>49</sup> Mosaic prospered reasonably well, however, many of the members who came from the RSJGL were "tainted more or less with a spirit of opposition and dissatisfaction, and not being able to gratify that spirit soon lost interest in the Lodge and Masonry and dropped out, a number being unaffiliated each year."<sup>50</sup>

Reacting to this defection, at the RSJGL's semi-annual communication on December 2, 1856, "The Grand Master [Charles W. Willets] made a report in which he stated that unworthy means had been used to induce two of their lodges to leave the St. John's organization and enter into communication with the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. In the report the M.W.G.M. makes severe charges against the rival organization. A committee of three was finally appointed to confer with the Grand Lodge of the State of New York to see if an honorable union could not be effected," consisting of Robert Heberd, George Ely, and Nathan Nesbit, together with Willets and Salmon Winchester, Grand Secretary.<sup>51</sup>

A report of the committee's efforts in the *New York Herald*, December 25, 1856, provides a rare glimpse into the details of the RSJGL's operations. At that time, the regular and Phillips grand lodges each had a committee tasked with negotiating a resolution with the opposite committee. On December 8, the RSJGL committee sent them written offers of a three-party meeting of the committees at the earliest possible date.<sup>52</sup>

The Phillips committee responded verbally that they were not empowered to meet concerning the RSJGL, but D.G.M. Macoy of the regular Grand Lodge committee offered to meet on December 17. Macoy himself had been the Grand Secretary of

the original SJGL. At the meeting, Macoy said his committee had no propositions to offer concerning a union, but were ready to receive any which the RSJGL committee had to make. There was a discussion concerning the difficulties then existing, and Macoy "expressed a desire to effect a union of the whole Masonic fraternity of New York, 'upon just and equal terms.'"<sup>53</sup>

The RSJGL committee then presented several propositions to Macoy, which tracked the terms of the reunion with the original SJGL in 1850 (with the addition of proposed constitutional amendments):

1. That the M.W. Grand Lodge of the State of New York shall expunge from the minutes of their proceedings all action relative to the expulsion of lodges and individuals connected with the organization and revival of St. John's Grand Lodge.

2. That said M.W. Grand Lodge shall acknowledge the lodges now working under the jurisdiction of St. John's Grand Lodge to be just and legally constituted, and that said lodges shall each receive, without charge, on the day that the union is effected a warrant to continue their labors under the said M.W. Grand Lodge.

3. That the past and present grand officers of St. John's Grand Lodge shall be received in, and rank as past grand officers of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

4. Asking for the repeal of the following sections of part 1 title 2 of the constitution: - Sec. 20, that no appeal to the lodge can be taken from the decision of the Master, or the Warden occupying the chair in his absence. Sec. 29, That no appeal lies from a decision of a Grand Master in the chair, or his deputy or warden occupying the chair in his absence.

5. Asking that the constitution may be so amended as to make dispensations for any purpose whatever, except for forming a new lodge, free of cost, and that the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> sections of part 3, title 2, of said constitution [relating to certain fees] shall be repealed.

6. Asking that the constitution be so amended as to limit the salary of the Grand Secretary to an amount not exceeding \$1,000 per annum.

7. That if the foregoing propositions are agreed to, the doors of all lodges in the respective jurisdictions shall be opened for the reception of visitors from lodges either under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York or St. John's Grand Lodge, until the time fixed for the final consummation of the union.

8. That St. John's Grand Lodge does hereby agree upon the receipt of official information that the above terms have been fully endorsed by that body, to take immediate measures to unite the lodges and fraternity under its jurisdiction with that of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.<sup>54</sup>

At a further meeting on December 19, the regular Grand Lodge committee presented its reply:

ANSWERS to the several propositions designated as articles of union with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York presented by the committee from a body styled "St. John's Grand Lodge," said body purporting to be Masonic.

1. That on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, 1850, the body then known as St. John's Grand Lodge was by its own act, unanimously adopted, dissolved, the warrants of its subordinate lodges surrendered, and a union completed with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York; that the expulsion of lodges and individuals connected

with the organization of St. John's Grand Lodge, (so called), was a legal Masonic act, and can be reversed only by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York, after petition for that purpose by the parties interested.

2. That the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York is a body of Masons in whom are originally and invariably vested the government and superintendence of the fraternity within its territorial jurisdiction; Therefore the body styled St. John's Grand Lodge is not Masonic, or its members Masons.

3. To the third proposition no answer is necessary.

4. That the ancient landmarks (written and unwritten) are these principles of masonic law and polity which are immutable, and that it is not in the power of any man or body of men to make innovations therein.

5 and 6. That amendments to the constitution of the M.W. Grand Lodge of New York can only be made at its annual communication, and as provided for by section 125 of the constitution.

7. That the privilege to become a Mason consists in possessing the qualifications known to masonic law, and having the unanimous consent of the lodge to which the petition is presented.

Finally, that the propositions presented are of such a character that they cannot, in whole or in part, be further entertained.<sup>55</sup>

The committee reported these transactions at an emergent communication of the RSJGL on December 23, and concluded that a union "cannot be effected upon any terms whatever." Willets further reported that Macoy said "that if the M.W. Henry C. Atwood and others were dead and buried, some terms might be come to." Willets admitted that "there was a crisis in the affairs of their juris-



diction, and that in future it would be no child's play but must be a fight."<sup>56</sup>

Bro. H.S. Smith of Columbian N<sup>o</sup> 14 remarked that the committee had exceeded its authority by making proposals, when they were only empowered to confer, and that "The propositions they had made were very improper proposals, and which of course could not be received." Willets explained that the other committee had asked for proposals. Smith replied, "it made a difference, but it was only a slight one. If the other side refused to make proposals, this Committee should have come back."

Nesbit viewed this as an attack on the integrity of the committee, and "made a powerful and eloquent address, in which he considered that the conduct of Deputy Grand Master Macoy was insulting in asking individual members to be again proposed and subjected to the same obligations."<sup>57</sup>

By the next year, in June 1857, the committees of the regular and Phillips grand lodges had finally arrived at a proposed settlement and Articles of Union, which were put to a vote at their respective annual communications.<sup>58</sup> Presumably hoping to be a party to the expected union, the RSJGL tried



The inscriptions on the cornerstone of the original St. John's Hall, a "building Erected for Masonic purposes," listing the members of the building committee, and dated October 13, 1802.

Located at 181 Bowery in New York City, the new St. John's Hall of 1854 was the center of activity for the brethren associated with the Revived St. John's Grand Lodge.

These images are courtesy of the Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library and Museum.



again, and appointed a committee to confer with the other grand bodies.<sup>59</sup>

Instead of attempting to arrange a meeting, the committee reported that “In consideration of the treatment which the committee appointed by this Grand Lodge in December last received from the committee of the other masonic bodies in this State, we are of the opinion that this Grand Lodge would place itself in a humiliating position by taking any further steps in this matter until an invitation is extended to us by these grand bodies.”<sup>60</sup>

Evidently no such invitation was extended. In any event, the voting membership of the regular Grand Lodge rejected the proposed Articles of Union, and the reunion with Phillips did not occur until June 1858.<sup>61</sup> Also in June 1857, a founding member of the RSJGL, Robert B. Folger, was individually restored to membership under the regular Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication, presumably having renounced affiliation with the RSJGL.<sup>62</sup>

In April 1858, another lodge, Cassia No 4, defected from the RSJGL. In a petition to D.G.M. McCoy dated April 15, 1858, its officers and members stated that their lodge was then “working under the jurisdiction of what claims to be St John’s Grand Lodge of F.&A.M.,” and that “wishing to become identified with the proper and constitutional body, respectfully request you to grant us a dispensation to empower us to assemble as a legal lodge under the jurisdiction of your G L.”<sup>63</sup> Dispensation was granted on April 29, and at the Annual Communication for that year, Grand Master John L. Lewis made the following remarks:

Of the number of those to whom dispensations have been issued, none gave me greater pleasure than that to Cassia Lodge, in Williamsburgh. This

lodge had heretofore worked under the authority of a pretended Grand Lodge located somewhere in this city. Becoming satisfied that they were in error, they, by an unanimous vote, resolved to renounce their allegiance to their assumed superior, and to come within the fold of legitimate Masonry in the State of New York, and presented their petition accordingly.

The R. W. Deputy Grand Master was deputed to heal them individually, which was done, and upwards of one hundred good and true men and masons enrolled themselves under our banner. The dispensation asked for was issued to them and application will be made for a warrant at our present session.

Although it formed no part of the motives which influenced the Grand officers in their action, I trust it will not be without its permanent effect. If the misguided men who adhere to irregular or clandestine organizations and positions claiming to be masonic, possessed the candor or magnanimity of the brethren of Cassia Lodge in avowing their fault, they would find no occasion to regret that they had trusted to the kindness and fraternal feeling of this Grand Body; the most fruitful theme of animosity and disunion both within and without our borders would be removed from discussion, and the Grand Lodge of New York could go on in her errand of mercy and benevolence without an obstacle to stay its progress.

The negotiation between our body and Cassia Lodge was terminated in less than one hour, and it is henceforth to become an equal and honored subordinate. There was no humbling itself even to be exalted, which is elsewhere deemed to be meritorious, but a simple determination to do right and abide the consequences.<sup>64</sup>

These remarks of Grand Master Lewis were published in the *New York Herald*, June 3, 1858, provoking a response in that paper the following day from Henry Atwood, which would be his last published words on the subject. Belligerent as ever, he accused the regular Grand Lodge of hypocrisy in accepting former RSJGL members as Masons, "when the present Grand Lodge declares the lodges in which they were initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason a spurious and clandestine body."<sup>65</sup>

Does not such proceedings as those show their willingness to lay principle aside and adopt policy, that is, to crush St. John's Grand Lodge: the banner of which does now, and, I trust, ever will, wave in triumph, and let them also bear this in mind, that the stone which the builders refused became the head stone of the corner.<sup>66</sup>

The end came for RSJGL in June 1859, after six years of existence. Somewhat oddly, the dissolution was effected in a subordinate lodge, St. John's No 1. Soon after the lodge's organization in December 1857, "several members, having awakened to the conviction that they were not a legitimate body, became dissatisfied and withdrew. Efforts were made to heal the existing difficulties and bring the Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Foremost among these was Wor. Bro. Salmon Winchester, Master of St. John's Lodge No 1, who was also Secretary of the St. John's Grand Lodge." "[O]n the evening of June 7, 1859, he offered a motion, which was seconded by Bro. Aaron Morley, Senior Warden of St. John's Lodge No 1, to disband the Grand Body. The motion prevailed and the Grand Body subsequently disbanded."<sup>67</sup>

News of the self-dissolution of the RSJGL was soon known to the regular Grand Lodge, which was then holding its Annual Communication. On June 11, the Committee on the Condition of Masonry presented the following resolution:

Whereas, An organization, bearing the name of St. John's Grand Lodge, have disbanded, and are desirous of coming under the jurisdiction of this M.W. Grand Lodge; and

Whereas, There are many difficulties existing in the consummation of this object, arising out of the circumstances of their organization, and the manner in which they have made masons; and

Whereas, Justice to the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, as well as to those brethren who have estranged themselves from us, is demanded; therefore

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed, to whom shall be referred the matter, with power, under the direction of the M.W. Grand Master, upon the terms stated in a letter from the M.W. Grand Master to R.W. J.W. Simons [Deputy Grand Master], and is as follows:

1. A discontinuance of Grand Lodge organization of the St. John's Lodge.
2. A discontinuance of these several lodge organizations.
3. A healing of all the persons made masons in them individually who may be found worthy.
4. The payment of an additional sum, equal to the amount required in our jurisdiction on the making of masons.
5. The organization of these brethren into lodges U.D., to whom such sums shall be paid—the dispensation is to be without charge, and they to retain their funds and property.<sup>68</sup>



The matter of winding-up the RSJGL was referred to D.G.M. Simons, formerly a grand officer of the original SJGL. Simons invited the principals of the former RSJGL lodges to meet with him, settle their finances, and provide lists of members in good standing. He then “healed” the RSJGL members, in a separate proceeding for each lodge, which took about four weeks to complete. The members of each lodge then petitioned for a dispensation to form a regular lodge, for which he charged the constitutional fee, later returned to them.<sup>69</sup>

The demise of the Revived St. John’s Grand Lodge marked the end of the Age of Schisms in New York.

### Known Grand Officers

The following grand officers, from time to time, are identifiable from various sources.

At the inception of the RSJGL in June 1853, the following grand officers were elected or appointed, listed here with their (former) affiliations. These were for the first, partial, Masonic year of the RSJGL, which began on the second Tuesday of September.<sup>70</sup>

G.M.	Richard Thum	York N <sup>o</sup> 197
D.G.M.	Charles G. Waterbury	Atwood N <sup>o</sup> 208
S.G.W.	R.S. Van Tassel	Hyatt N <sup>o</sup> 205
J.G.W.	Andrew J. Fisher	Keystone N <sup>o</sup> 235
G.Sec.	Charles W. Willets	Benevolent N <sup>o</sup> 192
G.Tr.	Robert E. Roberts	Worth N <sup>o</sup> 210
G.Chap.	Rev. James G. Kent	Independent N <sup>o</sup> 185
G.Pur.	Thomas Abbott	Independent N <sup>o</sup> 185
G.Tiler	James Stewart	Independent N <sup>o</sup> 185
G.Mar.	Joseph F. Rose	Benevolent N <sup>o</sup> 192
G.St.B.	John B. Ewing	Worth N <sup>o</sup> 210
G.Sw.B.	Gilbert M. Platt	Keystone N <sup>o</sup> 235

G. St.	H. Thompson	Keystone N <sup>o</sup> 235
G. St.	G.L. Osborne	Keystone N <sup>o</sup> 235
S.G.D.	John Woods	Keystone N <sup>o</sup> 235
J.G.D.	George T. Dollinger	Keystone N <sup>o</sup> 235

In September 1853, Henry C. Atwood, Grand Master and Charles W. Willets, Grand Secretary, were presumably elected at the beginning of the first full Masonic year.<sup>71</sup>

In June 1854, the following grand officers were elected at a regular communication of the RSJGL at Tollerton Hall.<sup>72</sup> This indicates a change in its Masonic year to begin/end in June, to coincide with the regular and Phillips grand lodges.

G.M.	Henry C. Atwood
D.G.M.	Reuben S. Van Tassel
S.G.W.	Andrew J. Fisher
J.G.W.	Charles W. Atwood
G.Sec.	Charles W. Willets
G.Tr.	Robert E. Roberts
G.Chap.	Rev. Joseph G. Kent
G.Lect.	Edmund B. Hays

The officers elected and installed in June 1855 at St. John’s Hall:<sup>73</sup>

G.M.	Andrew J. Fisher
D.G.M.	George Ely
S.G.W.	William Hersee
J.G.W.	William Lewis
G.Sec.	Charles W. Willets
G.Tr.	Robert E. Roberts
G.Chap.	Rev. Joseph G. Kent
G.Chap.	Rev. E. R. McGregor
G.Lect.	Edmund B. Hays

In December 1856: Charles W. Willets, Grand Master; George L. Osborne, Senior Grand Warden; Salmon Winchester, Grand Secretary.<sup>74</sup> These officers were presumably elected and installed in June 1856.

Elected and installed in June 1857:<sup>75</sup>

G.M. George Ely  
D.G.M. Charles W. Atwood  
S.G.W. John H. Hyde  
J.G.W. William G. McKay  
G.Sec. Salmon Winchester  
G.Tr. Delos B. Smith  
G.Chap. Rev. Joseph G. Kent  
G.Chap. Stephen Remington  
G.Lect. Hopkins Thompson

The RSJGL held its election as usual in June 1858, but research has not discovered the officers' names. The installation was held at Military Hall, 193 Bowery.<sup>76</sup>

In June 1859: Salmon Winchester, Grand Secretary.<sup>77</sup>

### Known RSJGL Lodges

**BENEVOLENT NO. 1.** Formerly Benevolent N<sup>o</sup>192 under the regular Grand Lodge (1850-1853) and Benevolent N<sup>o</sup>1 under the SJGL (1837-1850). Met in Tollerton Hall from June 1853 to at least November, 1853.<sup>78</sup> Presumably dissolved before the founding of Eureka N<sup>o</sup>1.

**EUREKA NO. 1.** The only record of this lodge is that certain of its members formed St. John's N<sup>o</sup> 1. Presumably it met in Brooklyn, as did St. John's, and dissolved before that lodge received its charter.

**ST. JOHN'S NO. 1.** Dispensation granted December 30, 1857, chartered June 28, 1858. Formed

by members of Eureka N<sup>o</sup>1, and met in Brooklyn. Should not be confused with two other lodges in Manhattan having this name and number simultaneously, under the regular and Phillips grand lodges. Fifty members formed Zeredatha N<sup>o</sup> 483 under the regular Grand Lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>79</sup> Zeredatha Lodge still meets in Brooklyn.

**KEYSTONE NO. 2.** Formerly Keystone N<sup>o</sup>235 under the regular Grand Lodge (1851-1853), many of its founding members were from SJGL lodges Silentia 2 and Darcy 9. Met at St. John's Hall. Certain members reformed Keystone N<sup>o</sup> 235 under the regular Grand Lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL, under its original charter.<sup>80</sup>

**FREEMAN'S NO. 3.** Extant from at least July 1854. Met in St. John's Hall from April 26, 1855. Forty members formed Ionic 468 under the regular GL after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>81</sup>

**CASSIA NO. 4.** Chartered January 6, 1854. Met at corner of Fourth and South Third Streets, Williamsburg. Over 100 members unanimously petitioned the regular Grand Lodge on April 15, 1858, to form a regular lodge, Cassia N<sup>o</sup>445, before the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>82</sup>

**CORINTHIAN NO. 5.** Fifteen members formed Corinthian N<sup>o</sup>488 under the regular Grand Lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>83</sup>

**STATES' RIGHTS NO. 6.** Extant at least July 1854 to May 1856. Met in St. John's Hall. It did not form a regular lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>84</sup>

**LIBERTY NO. 7.** Chartered May 1854. Extant until at least June 10, 1855. Met at 300 Grand Street, City of New York. The lodge issued a Master Mason certificate now in the author's collection, dated September 3, 1854, on a form published by Jeremy Cross and engraved by Amos Doolittle. The same

form (dated 1849) was supplied to the original SJGL.<sup>85</sup> It did not form a regular lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.

MANHATTAN NO. 8. Extant at least as early as February 1858. Met at corner of Grand and Clinton streets, City of New York. Twenty-two members formed Manhatta N° 489 under the regular Grand Lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL, so-called because there already was a regular lodge named Manhattan.<sup>86</sup>

PHOENIX NO. 9. Chartered December 5, 1854. Founding officers were Charles W. Willets, W.M., George L. Osborn, S.W., Abraham Stoothoff, J.W. Twenty-two members formed Tecumseh N° 487 under the regular Grand Lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>87</sup>

ATWOOD NO. 11. Chartered July 30, 1858. It did not form a regular lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>88</sup>

IONIC NO. 12 and LEBANON NO. 13. Fifty-eight members of these lodges renounced allegiance to the RSJGL and petitioned the regular Grand Lodge on November 13, 1856 to establish Mosaic 418.<sup>89</sup>

TROWEL NO. 14. Met at the Washington Building, corner of Court and Joralemon Streets, Brooklyn. Twenty-six members formed Stella N° 485 under the regular Grand Lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>90</sup>

COLUMBIAN NO. 15. Chartered December 4, 1855. Thirty-six members formed Columbian 484 under the regular Grand Lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>91</sup> Columbian N° 484 still meets in Manhattan.

PYRAMID NO. 16. Certain members formed Pyramid N° 490 under the regular Grand Lodge after the dissolution of the RSJGL.<sup>92</sup> Pyramid N° 490 still meets in Manhattan.

## Conclusion

Harmony, as we know, is the support of all institutions—but history, as Bro. Edward Gibbon remarked, “is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies, and misfortunes of mankind.”<sup>93</sup> The Age of Schisms was a difficult time to be a New York Freemason, but viewed from a safe distance, it furnishes ample material for the historian.

## Notes

Thanks to Gary Heinmiller, Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of New York, for his input and encouragement.

- 1 John G. Baker, “The Atwood Grand Lodge” in *Miscellany of the Masonic Historical Society of the State of New York* (1902).
- 2 The Phillips Grand Lodge was a group of City lodges claiming exclusive jurisdiction over symbolic Masonry in New York from 1849 to 1858. Peter Ross, *A Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York Including Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery and Scottish Rite Bodies* (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1899), 6:417–31. Henry Atwood’s Cerneauist Scottish Rite established two or three short-lived symbolic lodges in Manhattan, their membership mostly drawn from the RSGJL. Charles T. McClenachan, *A History of Freemasonry in New York* (New York: Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of New York, 1892), 3:476–80, Albert Pike, *Chastisement of a Bearer of False Witness* (Washington, 1889), 14–15, 19; Robert D. Folger, *The Ancient And Accepted Scottish Rite* (New York: Self-Published 1862), 14–15, 19.
- 3 *Statement of Proceedings Relative to Grievances Existing in the Grand Lodge of the State of New-York, and the Reasons for Reviving St. John’s Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York* (New York: Charles Shields, 1853) (hereinafter *RSJGL Proceedings*), 5–9.
- 4 *Protest Against the Installation of Hon. Reuben H. Walworth, as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, with the Circular Issued by the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Joseph D. Evans, and a Reply by Members of the Fraternity* (New York: Edward O. Jenkins, 1853) (hereinafter *Protest Against Walworth*); *Transactions of the Grand Lodge F.&A.M of New York* (New York: Robert



- Macoy, 1853), 222–27.
- 5 Opinion of Chancellor Walworth, upon the Questions Concerning the Late Masonic Difficulties in the State of New York: Together with the Action of the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, Kentucky, South Carolina, District of Columbia, Rhode Island, and Illinois, upon the Same Subject (New York: Br. Narine, 1849).
- 6 Peter Ross, *A Standard History of Freemasonry in the State of New York Including Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery and Scottish Rite Bodies* (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1899), 6:442.
- 7 “Independent, 185,” *Masonic Standard*, Oct. 29, 1898.
- 8 *New York Herald*, June 11, 1853: 5.
- 9 *New York Herald*, June 13, 1853: 5.
- 10 Protest Against Walworth, 5.
- 11 *New York Herald*, June 15, 1853: 5.
- 12 RSJGL Proceedings, 3–4.
- 13 Edgar T. Stewart, *History of Keystone Lodge, N<sup>o</sup> 234, F&AM from 1851 to 1853 — Keystone Lodge, N<sup>o</sup> 234, F&AM from 1859 to 1907* (Mt. Vernon NY: Daniel Lewis, 1907), 5.
- 14 RSJGL Proceedings, 5–28.
- 15 Ibid, 28–30.
- 16 Ibid, 30.
- 17 Ibid., 27.
- 18 Robert Freke Gould, et al., *A Library of Freemasonry* (London: John C. Yorston Pub. Co. 1906), 4:409.
- 19 Henry C. Atwood, *Circular Letter of the M.W. Grand Master of St. John's Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, to the Subordinate Lodges Under Its Jurisdiction* (New York: Charles Shields, 1854) (hereinafter Atwood, *Circular Letter*), 34.
- 20 *New York Herald*, Sep. 22, 1853: 8.
- 21 Minutes of Worth Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 210, on file in Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library, New York, New York (hereinafter “Livingston Library”); *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: J. J. Little & Ives Co., 1910), 151.
- 22 *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: Robert Macoy, 1854), 10, 14.
- 23 *New York Herald*, Sep. 22, 1853: 8.
- 24 *Grand Lodge of New York 1854 Proceedings*, 14
- 25 Ross, *Standard History*, 6:462.
- 26 Atwood, *Circular Letter*, 36–37.
- 27 James B. Taylor, “Letter to the Editor re: Recent Differences of New York Masons,” *Freemasons' Magazine* and *Masonic Mirror* 5 (1858): 1079.
- 28 Atwood, *Circular Letter*, 48–49.
- 29 Ibid., 39–45.
- 30 Ibid., 37.
- 31 Ross, *Standard History*, 6:462.
- 32 *Infra*, 159–60.
- 33 *New York Herald*, June 11, 1857: 4.
- 34 *Infra* at 153.
- 35 Atwood, *Circular Letter*, 5, 29–30.
- 36 *New York Herald*, June 11, 1857: 4.
- 37 Ibid.
- 38 Pike, *Chastisement of a Bearer of False Witness*, 15.
- 39 *Infra*, 159–60.
- 40 RSJGL Proceedings, 4.
- 41 *New York Herald*, June 27, 1854: 4.
- 42 “Dug Up a Masonic Relic—Cornerstone of Old St. John's Hall Comes to Light,” *The Sun*, Feb. 9, 1908: 4.
- 43 *New York Herald*, April 25, 1855: 2.
- 44 *Transactions of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: Thomas Holman, 1873), 18.
- 45 Ibid.
- 46 “Celebration of St. John's Day,” *The New York Times*, May 20, 1857: 8.
- 47 Ross, *Standard History*, 6:377.
- 48 *New York Herald*, November 24, 1857: 2.
- 49 “Mosaic Lodge, 418,” *Masonic Standard*, Jul. 14, 1900.
- 50 “Mosaic Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 418,” *Masonic Standard*, Mar. 28, 1903.
- 51 *New York Herald*, Dec. 4, 1856: 5.
- 52 “The War Among the Freemasons,” *New York Herald*, Dec. 25, 1856: 2.
- 53 Ibid.
- 54 Ibid.
- 55 Ibid.
- 56 Ibid.
- 57 Ibid.
- 58 Ross, *Standard History*, 6:429.
- 59 *New York Herald*, June 11, 1857: 4.
- 60 Ibid.
- 61 Ross, *Standard History*, 6:429–30.
- 62 *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: Bro. Narine, 1857), 41, 168.
- 63 Cassia N<sup>o</sup> 445 Grand Historian questionnaire, on file in Livingston Library.
- 64 *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: Bro. Narine, 1858), 42.

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*continued from page 163*

65 *New York Herald*, June 4, 1858: 7.

66 *Ibid.*

67 Henry Whittemore, *Free Masonry in North America from the Colonial Period to the Beginning of the Present*

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- Century: *Also the History of Masonry in New York from 1730 to 1888: in Connection with the History of the Several Lodges Included in What Is Now Known as the Third Masonic District of Brooklyn* (New York: Artotype, 1889), 291–300.
- 68 *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: Bro. Narine, 1859), 255.
- 69 *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: Macoy & Sickels, 1860), 38–39, 160.
- 70 *RSJGL Proceedings*, 29.
- 71 *New York Herald*, Sep. 22, 1853: 8.
- 72 *New York Daily Times*, Jun. 16, 1854: 5.
- 73 *New York Herald*, Jun. 12, 1855: 1; *New York Herald*, Jun. 17, 1855: 1.
- 74 “The War Among the Freemasons,” *New York Herald*, Dec. 25, 1856: 2.
- 75 *New York Herald*, Jun. 11, 1857: 4.
- 76 *New York Herald*, Jun. 21, 1858: 6.
- 77 Whittemore, *Free Masonry in North America*, 291.
- 78 *RSJGL Proceedings*, 4; *New York Herald*, Nov. 17, 1853: 5.
- 79 Whittemore, *Free Masonry in North America*, 291–300; “Zeredatha, N<sup>o</sup> 483,” *Masonic Standard*, Sep. 29, 1900.
- 80 Stewart, *History of Keystone Lodge*, 5, 10–11; *New York Herald*, Nov. 3, 1858: 2; *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: Macoy & Sickels, 1860), 38–39, 159.
- 81 *New York Herald*, July 26, 1854: 8; *New York Herald*, April 25, 1855: 2; “Ionic Lodge, 486,” *Masonic Standard*, Feb. 16, 1901.
- 82 Cassia N<sup>o</sup> 445 Grand Historian questionnaire, on file in Livingston Library; *New York Herald*, Feb. 4, 1858; *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of F.&A.M. of State of New York* (New York: Bro. Narine, 1858), 42.
- 83 “Corinthian Lodge,” *Masonic Standard*, Aug. 13, 1898; “Obituary Notes,” *Masonic Standard*, May 27, 1898.
- 84 *New York Herald*, July 26, 1854: 8; *New York Herald*, February 24, 1856: 5; *New York Herald*, May 18, 1856: 5.
- 85 Master Mason certificate issued by Liberty Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 7 (RSJGL), Sep. 3, 1854 (collection of Bradley Corsello); Master Mason certificate issued by Benevolent Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 1 (SJGL), Mar. 1, 1849 (collection of Bradley Corsello); *New York Herald*, June 10, 1855: 5; B. Corsello, “Who was Liberty Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 7?,” August 30, 2018, video, 52:23, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOmUKv5JYAO>.
- 86 *New York Herald*, February 4, 1858: 7; James Gordon Bennet, *History of Manhatta Lodge No. 489* (New York: O.H. LaBarre, 1928); Manhatta N<sup>o</sup> 234 Lodge History, on file in Livingston Library.
- 87 “Tecumseh Lodge,” *Masonic Standard*, Apr. 22, 1899; Tecumseh N<sup>o</sup> 487 Grand Historian questionnaire, on file in Livingston Library; *Collection Made by Committee on Antiquities of the Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons, of the State of New York* (New York: 1905) (“Charter of Phoenix Lodge, N<sup>o</sup> 9”).
- 88 Grand Lodge of New York Library list, N<sup>o</sup> 2910.
- 89 “Mosaic Lodge, 418,” *Masonic Standard*, Jul. 14, 1900; “Mosaic Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 418,” *Masonic Standard*, Mar. 28, 1903.
- 90 Whittemore, *Free Masonry in North America*, 291, 306; “Stella Lodge N<sup>o</sup> 485,” *Masonic Standard*, Dec. 5, 1903; William H. Slater et al., *History of Stella Lodge* (Brooklyn: W.C. Niper & Co., 1910), 5.
- 91 “Columbian Lodge,” *Masonic Standard*, Jun. 21, 1902.
- 92 Pyramid N<sup>o</sup> 490 Grand Historian questionnaire, on file in Livingston Library.
- 93 Edward Gibbon, *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* (Philadelphia: B.F. French, 1830), 1:42.
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